

**Rogue River Access and Management Plan – Table Rock Reach  
Technical Advisory Committee**

**3/20/12 Meeting Notes**

**Participants: MariAnn Koloszar(OSMB), Janine Belleque (OSMB), Russ Stauff (ODFW), Steve Lambert (JaCo Parks), John Vial (JaCo Parks), Trish Lindaman (BLM), Roger Allemand (ODOT), Nancy Pustis (DSL), Maynard Flohaug (Middle Rogue Steelheaders), Richard Darvis (Middle Rogue Steelheaders), Richard Phillips (Rogue Flyfishers), Kirk Meyer (OSP), Molly Morison (TNC)**

This was the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Rogue River Access and Management Plan. The planning process will address the recreation use and access on public lands from Givan Ranch to Nugget Falls. The primary goals are (1) to plan for safe access to the river and surrounding lands and (2) to educate and direct recreation users to use appropriate public lands while deterring use on private lands or unsuitable public lands.

The first half of the meeting was spent reviewing a PowerPoint presentation on the background and purpose of the project, core planning team and National Park Service planning assistance grant, project timeline, decision process and committee engagement, vision and goals for the project, and the changing uses of the Rogue River. A copy of the PowerPoint is attached. The role of the Technical Advisory Committee is to provide information and guidance to the Core Planning Group and land managers throughout the planning process and act as a liaison between the planning group and the community or organization that they represent. Individuals on this committee have a lot of on-the-ground knowledge about the river uses, conflicts, and needs and are a great resource and knowledge bank to the land managers. Input from the Citizen Advisory Group and community open house process will also be addressed in this planning process. The goal is to reach decisions by consensus, when possible, with the ultimate decision being made by the individual public land manager of the lands under consideration for development. The TAC will meet periodically throughout the planning process. The final plan will be completed in the summer 2013.

The second half of the meeting was spent soliciting feedback from the group on what they would like to see the planning process address and what uses and conflicts they are currently seeing on the river. Below are the notes that were captured at the meeting.

**What would you like to see the plan address?**

- Balance between recreation and conservation
- Will act as a liaison between my group and this planning group
- Resolve issues related to an increase in river access that resulted from dam removal
- Spent much of my life on the river
- Would like to understand the planning process and be involved
- Would like to see a consistent message among all of the public land managers
- Value bringing people outdoors to deepen their appreciation and investment in conservation
- Represent recreational interests of the area
- This is the most unique stretch of river in the Medford area with an incredible fishery resource, the Table Rocks, and lots of public lands
- Law enforcement on the river and lands in the area – regulates boating, hunting, gold mining; wants to be informed so can know the rules and share them with all users and landowners
- Excited about this project because we get to plan for logical areas to develop recreation sites

## Recreation Inventory by Reach

### Reach 1: Givan Ranch to Touvelle State Park

#### Recreation use and river character

- “Bunny run”
- Good fishing riffle
- Can get a key and access the river/launch a boat or go fishing at Denman Wildlife Area (triangle area on the map)
- Rattlesnake rapid is above this reach and it makes the reach self-regulating. It is an easy run after rattle snake rapid.
- Below 1000 cfs and greater than 5000 cfs rattle snake becomes more challenging and dangerous
- Old Elk Picnic Area is in between the two Givan Ranch areas
- Not a lot of motorized use; near-by residents use motorized boats in this reach
- Not many law enforcement issues in this reach
- The run in this reach begins at Dodge Bridge and ends at Touvelle, it is self-regulating at this point, due to limited access
- Reds are spectacular in this reach

#### Needs, Opportunities, and Constraints

- Concern if you put a developed boat launch in more jet boats would use this reach and create conflicts between other users (drift boats, anglers, rafters).
- If a boat launch is put in below rattlesnake rapid (Givan) then the river would be open to many more people at a lower skill level.
- Don’t want to see a lot of change in use.

### Reach 2: Touvelle State Park to Gold Ray Natural Area

#### Recreation use and river character

- Dam removal opened up some great fishing holes
- There is a commercial jet-boat tour in this reach
- The reach is a Class II reach, the dam site represents the biggest drop
- Most people are floating through Gold Ray; but some people use this as a take-out. This area may be conducive for non-motorized take-out and/or put-in. This would benefit canoeists and other non-motorized users.
- If boating use is not planned for, then it could expand into private lands
- Motorized use would increase more if facilities are developed to accommodate them
- Gold Ray Natural Area has turned into an area for hiking, bird watching, and exploration
- Major floods have really changed the character of this reach in the past (1955, 1964, 1990’s), pit capture
- This reach has historically been a wide channel that meanders and moves throughout the floodplain above the dam site; below the dam site the river confines a lot

#### Needs, Opportunities, and Constraints

- TNC has a conservation easement that prohibits public access into lower Table Rock from the river. Would like to deter public access into the Table Rocks from the river-side
- TNC also has lands near Kelly Slough and if others would be interested in managing this land, TNC would like to discuss this. ODFW is interested in talking more about this.
- Concern about non-invasive plants spreading and need education around this
- This reach has the potential for private – public conflict in this area

- Need access for law enforcement

### **Reach 3: Gold Ray Natural Area to Nugget Falls**

#### Recreation use and river character

- This reach extending down to Nugget Falls has the three most challenging rapids; great for paddlers; it is underutilized by whitewater boaters because the access is not very good. It is not for the average drift boaters.
- Gold dredging use has increased dramatically, there is a lot of use in this reach. At times up to 100 people dredging in the river. Gold dredgers are looking for close-by places to camp.
- There are some smaller rapids near Hardy Riffle too.
- Two common names of islands near Hardy Riffle are Otter and Vitamin
- Nugget Falls/Gold Nugget Wayside Areas have bank fishing and walk-in boat access but no boat launch. Kayakers stop at this site, but take-out at Gold Hill.
- Motorized use in this reach is only a handful, it seems to be self-limiting
- This reach and the whole project area is very popular when wild fishing opens up (July/August), this includes motorized use

#### Needs, Opportunities, and Constraints

- Hardy Riffle - -can this be opened up? Currently there is no public access across the railroad. Public access across the railroad would need to be negotiated with the railroad company.
- Upper River Road is narrow and very challenging
- Gold dredging in the river at current use levels maybe a navigational issue and need to talk to the state about permitting this use
- Need take-out above Nugget Falls because this is the first of the major rapids.
- ODOT is surplusng their property near Dowden Falls
- Need to ask river users if developed motorized facilities should be created in this reach, what the current use is, and if this use should occur in this reach
- Rogue River Greenway plans call for renovations to Upper River road for trail users
- Parking issue at Fishers Ferry. There is not enough room and it is an area of conflict. It is a limiting factor on use this reach